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ABSTRACT

This glossary contains brief definitions of more than 550 special or technical terms used in scientific, technical, and social science research. Entries include various kinds of statistical measures, research variables, types of research tests, and research methodologies. Some computer terminology is also included. The glossary includes both general and specific terms and some cross-references are provided. (THC)

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A GLOSSARY OF RESEARCH TERMS

compiled by
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1985

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A GLOSSARY OF RESEARCH TERMS

-- A --

ABORT -- an interruption during a computer program run.

ABRIDGMENT -- condensation of an author's original work (expurgated text).

ACCIDENTAL SAMPLING -- sometimes called convenience sampling. Using physical proximity rather than random selection as the basis for choosing respondents.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT -- recognition of indebtedness to another's work.

ACTIVITIES -- clusters of tasks which require a mixture of human skills and resources, with or without physical resources.

ADDRESS -- a number used by the computer to keep track of different memory locations.

ALGORITHM -- a way of computing with reference to some particular subject or in some particular way; a set of procedures through which analysis is accomplished.

ALPHA FIELD -- a field of information containing only alphabetic characters.

ALPHANUMERIC FIELD -- a field of information which contains both numbers and alphabetic characters.

ALTERNATE HYPOTHESIS -- the research hypothesis which states the differences that we expect to find; symbolized as H^1 , or H^a .

ANALOG -- an approximate representation. A clock with hands is an analog device. See DIGITAL.

ANALYSIS -- the breakdown of material into its constituent parts for examination of the relationships of the parts and of the way they are organized.

ANALYSIS OF COVARIANCE -- a statistical method for ruling out pre-treatment differences when the interest is in post-treatment differences.

ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE(ANOVA) -- a statistical technique which permits an analysis of the data in more than two samples at a time. It is concerned with testing the differences among sample means which come from two or more population means.

ANALYTIC FILES -- field-note files which are categorized according to research interests. Each page of notes can be used in multiple categories.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY -- a bibliography with comments about its purpose, its source, its inclusiveness, and its value.

APPLICATION PROGRAM (software) -- a computer program designed to solve a particular type of problem or perform a specific operation, such as SPSS.

APPLIED RESEARCH -- research designed to find answers and solutions which can be applied to problems of immediate concern.

ARCHIVES -- records, usually written or computer backup tapes, which can be examined as data.

AREA PROBABILITY SAMPLE -- a multistage cluster sample using geographical areas as the first-stage sampling unit (census blocks or tracts).

ARTIFICIALITY -- circumstances in an experimental situation which are rarely found in the natural environment and which make it difficult to generalize the experimental findings.

ASCII -- acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a 7-bit code for representing character data such as numbers, punctuation, etc.

ASSOCIATION -- the relationship of positions between variables.

ASSUMPTIONS -- factors which are accepted as true for the purposes of the research project, though not yet proven true.

A-TYPE VARIABLE -- an alphanumerical variable, having at least one value that is either an alphabetic letter or a special character.

ATTRIBUTES -- characteristics of people or things. See VARIABLES.

AUTHORITY -- a source of knowledge whose opinions are generally accepted as final, reliable, and valid.

AVERAGE -- an ambiguous term which suggests a so-called norm. The statistical mean is the arithmetic average of raw scores.

AXIOM -- a statement generally accepted as true.

-- B --

BAR GRAPH -- a graphic representation of data. See HISTOGRAM.

BASIC -- acronym for Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code, an interactive, high-level programming language.

BATCH PROCESSING -- accumulating data for input and processing in groups or batches.

BAUD RATE -- the speed of serial communications; BAUD refers to the number of BITS per second -- 300 BAUD means 300 BITS/second, or 30 characters per second.

BAYES FORMULA -- a statistical method for dealing with two-stage conditional probability problems.

BEHAVIORISM -- a general term for the psychology that deals with such things as: stimulus-response, reward, reinforcement, motivation, etc.

BELL-SHAPED CURVE -- the normal statistical distribution of data.

BEST FIT LINE -- in statistics, the regression line.

BETA COEFFICIENTS -- standard partial regression coefficients.

BIAS -- a quality in a measuring device that tends to lead the answers by asking leading questions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY -- a list of books, articles, and other materials about a single topic or subject.

BIMODAL DISTRIBUTION -- a distribution which has two scores highest and equal in frequency. Both modes are reported.

BINARY-CODED DATA(BCD) -- a method for converting data into internal files for use with SPSS, among other programs.

BINARY(DUMMY) VARIABLE -- used to estimate correlation of continuous variables with categorical variables.

BINARY SYSTEM -- system of mathematical notation which works on a base of two(2), and is the system used in most computers.

BINOMIAL -- a variable with two attributes.

BIT -- the basic unit of information in any system using binary notation; the smallest piece of information a computer can handle; a BINARY DIGIT, either a 0 (ZERO) or a 1 (ONE).

BIVARIATE ANALYSIS -- a statistical analysis of two variables in a single table.

BMD -- Biomedical Statistical Package; similar to SPSS.

BODY OF THE TABLE -- the portion of the table that is comprised of the cells.

BOGARDUS SOCIAL-DISTANCE SCALE -- a scaling technique designed to measure the social distances or acceptance existing between particular groups of people.

BUG -- a problem or side-effect of a computer program, usually undesirable.

BYTE -- a group or sequence of bits (usually eight bits) that is operated on as a unit; a computer word.

-- C --

CANNED PROGRAMS -- standard software programs which are stored in, or loaded into, a computer for ready accessibility to a user.

CANONICAL CORRELATION -- a statistical method used to describe the relationship between two clusters of variables.

CARD CATALOGUE -- a card file which lists all the books and holdings of a library alphabetically; usually listed under author, title, and subject.

CASE -- the individual sample unit, for instance, each respondent to a survey.

CATEGORICAL VARIABLE -- a measure that simply classifies data.

CATEGORIZING DOWN -- the process of making finer and finer classifications.

CATHODE RAY TUBE -- a television-like display screen used with computers; CRT.

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP -- the idea that a specific action, event, condition, or circumstance determines another specific action, event, or condition.

CELL -- that portion of a table containing a frequency.

CELL FREQUENCY -- the number, or percents, found in a cell.

CENSUS -- the collection of data from all members of a population.

CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT -- the component of a computer that contains the primary memory(ROM), and generally directs the computer's activities.

CENTRAL TENDENCY -- the idea that scores in a frequency distribution tend to group at some central, or representative score. See MEAN, MEDIAN, MODE.

CENTROID -- the mean discriminant scores for each group on each function in a multiple discriminant analysis.

CHI SQUARE(X^2) - a discrepancy statistic which calculates the differences between the frequencies observed and the frequencies expected in a set of nominally scaled categories.

CLASS -- measurements which are all the same, or in the same grouping; all scores of 65 on a test, or all "B" final grades.

CLASS FREQUENCY -- the number of measurements falling in each class.

CLASS INTERVAL -- grouped CLASS data: test scores between 65-70, teenagers.

CLASSIC EXPERIMENT -- an experimental design using both experimental and control groups. Only the experimental groups get the experimental treatment; pre- and post-tests are administered to both groups.

CLASSIFICATION -- categorizing conceptually similar phenomena.

CLOSED-ENDED QUESTION -- one which includes specific, limited, response categories.

CLUE -- an attribute used by the brain in pattern recognition.

CLUSTER SAMPLING -- a multistage sample in which natural groups are initially sampled, and selected members then subsampled.

COBOL -- acronym for Common Business Oriented Language, a high-level, non-interactive computer programming language designed for business applications.

CODEBOOK -- an outline of what is coded and how it is coded; a document used in data processing and analysis that tells the location of the different items in the data file.

CODING -- a process for transforming raw data into standardized form for computer processing and analysis.

COHORT STUDY -- study of a specific population over time. Respondents to each sampling can be different, but the population must be the same.

COINCIDENTAL INTERVIEW -- method of public opinion surveying by means of telephone interviews.

COMMON CLASSES -- categories or classes of events, people, or things that are being studied.

COMMON SENSE -- knowledge based on accumulated experiences, prejudices, and beliefs; it is often contradictory and inconsistent.

COMPILE -- to combine related material.

COMPILER -- software that enables a computer to translate an application program into machine-readable language.

COMPUTER -- a CYBERNETIC MACHINE; a sophisticated calculating device.

COMPUTER OUTPUT MICROFILM(COM) -- microfilm output containing computer-generated data.

CONCEPT -- a word or set of words which expresses a general idea about the nature of something or the relations between things; a working hypothesis.

CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS -- content analysis using conceptual clusters of words for analyzing texts.

CONCEPTUAL CLUSTER -- grouping similar ideas/concepts into cohorts/clusters. The groupings are formed around key ideas that constitute research variables.

CONCEPTUALIZE -- to define and explain clearly the exact meanings of concepts and terms used in a study.

CONCRETE CONCEPT -- refers to specific and measurable characteristics and properties of phenomena.

CONCURRENT VALIDITY -- the ability of an item to produce results in keeping with those from some criterion that is observed at the same time the item is administered.

CONFIDENCE INTERVAL -- the range of values within which a population parameter is estimated to lie; used with the standard error.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL -- the estimated probability that a population parameter lies within a given CONFIDENCE INTERVAL.

CONSOLE -- See TERMINAL.

CONSTANT -- a constant has only one value, and does not change from one observation to another.

CONSTRUCT VALIDATION -- determining the accuracy of items by showing that the scores on them will categorize individuals as predicted in theory.

CONTENT ANALYSIS -- a coding procedure for the systematic quantification of verbal and written materials into numeric form for statistical analysis. It is not normally a test, but some qualitative forms are available.

CONTENT VALIDITY -- when items actually reflect the content of the behavior being measured.

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS -- a form of content analysis used to predict future verbal behaviors based on known verbal behaviors.

CONTINGENCY QUESTION -- a filter question; a response is contingent upon the response to a preceding question.

CONTINGENCY TABLE -- a table that shows how the value in any cell is dependent upon the value of a score in a corresponding cell.

CONTINUOUS VARIABLE -- a measure that assumes an underlying continuum.

CONTROL GROUP -- the experimental group used for comparison purposes; it does not receive the experimental treatment.

CONTROL VARIABLE -- a variable which is held constant in order to clarify the relationship between two other variables.

CONVERGENT VALIDITY -- when the results of one attitude/behavior measure correspond with another item designed to measure the same attitude/behavior.

CORRELATION -- the degree to which two or more variables in a given population interrelate.

COROLLARY -- an inference or conclusion based on demonstrated fact(s), usually with reference to mathematical propositions.

COVARIATE -- in statistics, any one of the concomitant variables used in the analysis of covariance.

CPU -- Central Processing Unit; a computer's controlling device.

CRITICAL REGION -- those values of the sample mean scores that correspond to the rejection of the NULL HYPOTHESIS.

CRITICAL VALUE -- the value of the sample mean scores that separates the rejection and acceptance regions.

CROSS REFERENCE -- words or symbols which refer the reader to other places where information about a topic can be found, especially in libraries .

CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY -- a study designed to make observations at a single point in time.

CROSS TABULATION -- statistical representation of the joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more variables.

CRUCIAL EXPERIMENT -- a research design which allows for the simultaneous examination of the research hypothesis and at least one alternative hypothesis.

CYBERNETICS -- a science which compares the communication and control systems of humans and machines; loosely, machine intelligence.

-- D --

DATA -- the reports of observations of variables.

DATA BASE -- a collection of data organized to be processed as a whole; also called DATA BANK.

DATA MATRIX -- raw data from a study before it is reduced to summary numbers or distributions.

DATA PROCESSING -- number crunching; using a computer to handle data for ease of analysis; the computer only does the mathematical work, the researcher has to do the thinking.

DATA STREAMS -- material available on punch tape from newspaper typesetting computers which can be readily used for CONTENT ANALYSIS purposes.

DEBUG -- to remove mistakes from a computer program. See BUG.

DECILES -- values of X that divide the histogram into tenths.

DEDUCTION -- a form of logic that begins with a general statement about observed characteristics and arrives at a specific statement derived from the general one.

DEGREES OF FREEDOM -- the number of deviation scores in a sample that can be any value, usually represented as $N - (\text{specific number})$.

DEMAND CHARACTERISTICS -- circumstances in an experiment that lead the subjects to try to do what they think the researcher wants them to do, even if such actions are not normal for the subjects.

DEMOGRAPHICS -- refers to respondent characteristics such as: age, sex, income, education, etc.

DEPENDENT VARIABLE -- a quantity that is caused to change by the state of another quantity; the variable the researcher is most interested in, usually the focus of the study.

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS -- statistics that give a picture of the data and provide a single summary number to describe an entire data set or series of scores.

DESCRIPTIVE STUDY -- a research project designed to discover an accurate description of various events, institutions, groups, or behavior patterns.

DEVIATION SCORE -- in statistics, the difference between the value of a raw score and the value of the mean.

DICHOTOMY -- split in two; a classification having only two categories.

DIGIT -- one of the ten cardinal numbers: 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9.

DIGITAL -- expressed in units or numbers, and in that sense precise rather than approximation or analog.

DIRECT ACCESS FILE -- a permanent storage file which can be directly operated on by a user.

DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS -- a statistical method of calculating the effects of interval-level independent variables on nominal dependent variables (categorical).

DISCRIMINATION VALIDITY -- the ability of an item to measure one, and only one, particular thing and not any others.

DISPERSION -- in statistics, variability of the data; how the individual cases are spread apart. See RANGE, VARIANCE, AND STANDARD DEVIATION.

DISSERTATION -- a long, involved, and formal exposition on some serious or scholarly topic.

DISTRIBUTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS -- in statistics, information about the frequency, variability, and central tendency of variables.

DOUBLE-BARRELED QUESTION -- single items asking two questions when they should only be addressing one thing.

DUMMY VARIABLE -- in statistics, a binary variable used for estimating the correlation of continuous variables (interval scaling) with categorical variables (nominal scaling), and in some regression equations.

DUNCAN'S MULTIPLE RANGE TEST -- in statistics, an A POSTERIORI contrast test; a systematic procedure for comparing all possible pairs of group means.

-- E --

ECOLOGICAL FALLACY -- making conclusions about one unit of analysis based on the study of another unit of analysis; jumping from group-level analysis to draw conclusions about individual behaviors. See INDIVIDUALISTIC FALLACY.

EFFECTIVENESS -- the extent to which a project accomplishes its stated goals.

EFFICIENCY -- the extent to which a project can accomplish its goals at a stated level of quality while minimizing costs.

EIGENVALUE -- a specially computed measure of the relative importance of a discriminant function.

ELIPSIS -- an omission within quoted material indicated by three periods with a space before, after, and between periods(. . .).

EMPIRICAL DISTRIBUTION -- the actual sample distribution.

EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION LEVELS -- stages of the research process: ORIENTATION, ~~problem-setting~~; INDUCTIVE EMPIRICISM; and HYPOTHETICO-DEDUCTIVE EMPIRICISM.

EMPIRICAL OBSERVATION -- information based on measurable data.

EMPIRICAL RULE -- in any distribution of measurements that is approximately bell-shaped, approximately 68% of the measurements will fall within one standard deviation, 95% will fall within two(2) standard deviations, and that more than 99% will fall within three(3) standard deviations.

•
ENCRYPTION -- coding data in such a way that it is unintelligible without the key to the code.

ENUMERATIVE DATA -- counted data.

EPISTEMIC RELATIONSHIP -- the logical linking between the abstract concepts being studied and the concrete variables being used to measure the concepts.

EPSILON -- the percentage difference between variable scores in a table.

•
EQUAL INTERVAL SCALE -- a scale which uses equal intervals between the values used to order data.

EQUILIBRIUM -- the resolution of conflict in order to reach stability; the concept of balance. See HOMEOSTASIS.

EQUIFINALITY -- the idea that final results may be reached in many different ways, and under many different conditions.

•
EQUIVALENCE -- means that members of both the experimental and the control groups are similar in population make-up, environmental settings, and stimulus materials presented.

ERIC -- Educational Resources Information Center, a nationwide data-base designed primarily to serve the educational community.

ERROR OF THE ESTIMATE -- the magnitude of the difference between sample mean value and the population mean value.

ESTIMATION -- predicting the value of population parameters.

ESTIMATOR -- is a rule that tells how to calculate the estimate based on information in the sample, and is generally expressed as a formula. See SAMPLE MEAN.

ETA -- an asymmetric statistic; a measure of association used when the independent variable is nominal-level and the dependent variable is interval-level or ratio-level.

ETHOLOGY -- the study of creatures in their natural environments, rather than in the laboratory, with an emphasis on SPECIES WISDOM.

EVALUATION -- determining a the effectiveness, efficiency, and accomplishments of a project.

EVALUATIVE ASSERTION ANALYSIS -- a form of content analysis using the sentence as a unit of analysis by breaking it down into its constituent parts.

EVASIONS -- not providing complete and accurate information; directing a researcher down a false path.

EVENT -- in measuring probability, the set of possible outcomes of an action; in drawing a card from a deck, one event is that it is red -- the set of outcomes includes all red cards(26).

EXPECTATION -- in statistics, the product of the probability of each event with the payoff of that event; in a set it is the average of the payoffs.

EXPECTED FREQUENCIES -- the values we would expect to find if no relationship existed between variables. See CHI SQUARE.

EXPECTED VALUE -- the mean value of a random variable defined over a theoretical population.

EXPERIMENT -- a process by which an observation or measurement is obtained.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN -- a plan for acquiring a quantity of information in an effective, efficient manner.

EXPERIMENTAL ERROR -- decreases in useful information due to such things as: differences between subjects, failure to use identical repeated measures, uneven administering of stimuli by the experimenter, and errors in measurement.

EXPERIMENTAL GROUP -- the group in experimental designs that is exposed to the experimental treatment. See CLASSIC EXPERIMENT, CONTROL GROUP.

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD -- a project undertaken to test relationships among variables based on systematic observation of variables that are manipulated by the researcher.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT -- the actual condition that the experimental group is exposed to, but which is withheld from the control group.

EXPERIMENTAL VARIABLE -- the independent variable in an experiment.

EXPERIMENTAL UNITS -- the objects upon which measurements are taken.

EXPLANATORY STUDY -- a project which has as its purpose the explanation of certain events and occurrences.

EXPLORATORY STUDY -- a project which has as its purpose the discovery of insights and knowledge about an area, generally one which has not been studied; breaking new ground.

EXPONENT -- a number written above and to the right of another number to indicate the number of factors in a product. the symbol 2^4 represents the number obtained by a product that uses the number two(2) four(4) times.

EXTERNAL VALIDATION -- the process of testing the validity of a measure by examining its relationship to other, presumed, indicators of the same variable.

EXTERNAL VALIDITY -- the generalizability of findings; the truth of findings as they can be generalized to other findings.

EXTRAPOLATION -- making predictions beyond the range of observed values.

-- F --

F-RATIO -- in ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE, the basis for obtaining a probability statement about the NULL HYPOTHESIS; it is used to test an hypothesis concerning the equality of two population variances.

F-TYPE VARIABLE -- a variable composed entirely of numeric values.

FACE VALIDITY -- a measure seems valid when you look at it.

FACTOR -- an independent variable; often a computed variable based on a correlation matrix.

FACTOR ANALYSIS -- a complex algebraic formula for determining the general dimensions, or factors, that exist within a set of concrete observations.

FALLACY -- a mistaken idea, often based on inadequate information; illogical reasoning.

FEEDBACK -- the report made by a system on how it is working to achieve its goals. See NEGATIVE FEEDBACK, POSITIVE FEEDBACK.

FEEDFORWARD -- information projected within a system as an estimate of what may be needed.

FIELD -- a designated area on a line of a file which has specific contains specific information; a given number of columns.

FIELD EXPERIMENT -- an experimental design applied in a natural setting.

FILE -- a group of related data items that are stored and processed together as a unit.

FLOPPY DISC -- a flexible magnetic disc for storing data for computer usage.

FOLLOW-UP MAILINGS -- sending reminders to subjects who do not return questionnaires in a timely manner.

FRIEDMAN TWO-WAY ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE -- a NONPARAMETRIC statistical test for use when repeated measures are involved.

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION -- the count of the number of cases within the categories of a variable.

FREQUENCY POLYGON -- a graphic representation of a frequency distribution by means of a dot and line graph.

FUNCTION -- the set of activities generic to the conduct of programs which relate directly to goals and objectives.

FUNCTIONALISM -- the idea that the consequences of an action or behavior might be essential elements of the causes of that action or behavior. See EQUIFINALITY.

FUNNEL TECHNIQUE -- the use of broad and general questions at the beginning of a questionnaire or item sequence and then narrowing the questionnaire to more specific questions.

-- G --

GAMMA -- a PRE measure of association for ordinally measured variables.

GENERALIZABILITY -- noting the the classes of actions, behaviors, persons, situations, etc. for which an observed relationship seems to be valid.

GENERIC FORMS -- the more typical, general, common, and universal features of things; showing how observations of a given type display features common to a certain form.

GOALS -- desired ends, aspirations, guiding stars.

GOODNESS OF FIT -- the difference between measured observations and predicted observations. See CHI-SQUARE.

GRAPHICAL METHOD -- visual representations of data, HISTOGRAMS, FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION CURVES, TABLES, etc.

GRAND IDEAS -- CONCEPTS of importance which have value in several, or many, areas; unifying ideas.

GROUP SURVEY -- administering a questionnaire or survey to a group of subjects who are assembled in the same place, at the same time.

GUTTMAN SCALE -- a composite measure which focusing on the unidimensionality and reproducibility of a measure which summarizes several discrete observations to reflect a more general construct; a SCALOGRAM. See REPRODUCIBILITY.

-- H --

HARDCOPY -- information display produced on paper.

HARDWARE -- the machines which comprise a computation system.

HEADING -- the top portion of a table; usually the title of the independent variable categories.

HIERARCHY -- things arranged or ranked in a graded series, as response values might be organized.

HISTOGRAM -- the graphic representation of a frequency distribution by means of a bar graph; sometimes called HISTOGRAPH.

HISTORY EFFECT -- refers to the fact that change-producing events occurring between an experimenter's early and late observations can lead to faulty conclusions.

HOLISTIC -- taking the large, overall view, rather than looking at details or specific aspects.

HOMEOSTASIS -- stability involving self-regulation, by the individual or by a group; a defense against change.

HYPOTHESIS -- a statement of relationship between two or more concepts/social patterns, if one's theory is correct; an expectation about the nature of things derived from a theory.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING -- determining whether the expectations of an HYPOTHESIS exist in reality.

-- I --

INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION -- having another researcher attempt to reproduce the results of a project, while looking for researcher bias.

INDEPENDENT MEANS -- sets of scores that are not related; sets of scores from two different, randomly selected, samples.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE -- a quantity that causes changes in another quantity, usually a DEPENDENT VARIABLE; a variable used in a study to explain other variables.

INDEX -- a way to measure phenomena that cannot be observed directly and that are comprised of several dimensions; a composite measure that summarizes several specific observations and represents some more general dimension.

INDICATORS -- empirically observable/measurable events, actions, people, places, or things that can be recorded in relationship to research concepts and patterns.

INDIRECT ACCESS FILE -- a permanent file which is stored somewhere other than in the computer's physical memory; used for mass storage.

INDIVIDUALISTIC FALLACY -- jumping from the individual level of analysis to make conclusions about group-level data.

INDUCTION -- the process of using specific observations about something as a logical basis for arriving at a general statement which explains those observations; developing general principles from specific observations.

INFERENTIAL STATISTICS -- statistics used to test hypotheses and to estimate parameters.

INFORMANTS -- subjects, trusted by the researcher, who give insight into the beliefs, values, and meanings of his group/culture.

INFORMATION -- the content of any form of message or program.

INPUT -- information entered into a computer for data processing or storage.

INTENSITY WEIGHTS -- quantitative values assigned to words in order to differentiate between greater and lesser intensity of the word's meanings.

INTERCHANGEABILITY OF INDEXES -- the idea that if some general variable is related to another variable, all indicators of the variable should have that relationship.

INTERNAL VALIDATION -- the process of correlating the various items on a measure with the measure itself.

INTERNAL VALIDITY -- refers to the possibility that conclusions drawn from the experimental results may not reflect accurately what went on in the experiment itself.

INTERPOLATE -- to insert ideas, material or information into written work, where it should logically go; predicting within the range of observed values.

INTERQUARTILE RANGE -- a simple measure of variation constructed by taking the difference between the third quartile and the first quartile.

INTERSUBJECTIVITY -- a situation where two different researchers study the same problem and arrive at the same conclusions.

INTERVAL ESTIMATE -- the calculation of two points which are intended to enclose the true value of a parameter being estimated.

INTERVAL SCALE -- a level of measurement describing a variable whose attributes are rank-ordered, with equal distances between adjacent attributes.

INTERVENING VARIABLE -- a variable that comes between the dependent and independent variable; for instance, one's occupation could intervene between education and income.

INTERVIEW -- a technique where the researcher asks questions and records the answers himself.

INTERVIEWEE -- the person being interviewed; the respondent.

INTERVIEWER -- the person asking questions.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE -- the document used by an interviewer to record respondents' answers.

INTERVIEW SURVEY -- trained observers ask questions of respondents rather than have them give written answers.

INTIMATE FAMILIARITY -- field relationships with subjects that allow a researcher to gain access to a group's innermost feelings, meanings, and understandings.

INTUITION -- a hunch, an idea, or a feeling used like knowledge as the basis for a concept or theory, but which is unreliable for knowledge, in and of itself.

INVENTORY FORMAT -- a list of items to be checked or marked by respondents; used when a question requires more than a single response from subjects.

INVERSE RELATIONSHIP -- See NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIP.

ITEM -- an item is a question, or set of questions used to measure attitudes, beliefs, opinions, etc.

-- J --

JUDGMENTAL SAMPLE -- selection of units for observation based on the researcher's personal judgment about which units will be more useful or representative.

JOURNALS -- academic and professional publications which carry reports of research findings and other information.

-- K --

KENDALL'S TAU -- a statistical measure of association between ordinal-level variables.

KEY LINKAGE -- a theme, model, or organizing scheme that ties everything together, usually a theoretical framework.

KNOWLEDGE -- stored information, in people, places, or things; usually in the form of programs or patterns.

KOLMOGOROV-SMIRNOV TEST -- a NONPARAMETRIC statistic used to test the HYPOTHESIS that two distributions differ.

KRUSKAL-WALLIS ONE-WAY ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE -- a NONPARAMETRIC method of ANOVA used for independent samples among more than two groups.

KURTOSIS -- a measure of the relative peakedness or flatness of the curve defined by a frequency distribution.

-- L --

LABORATORY EXPERIMENT -- an experiment conducted in specially constructed settings designed to facilitate observations, recordings, and controls.

LAMBDA -- a PRE measure of association for nominally scaled variables.

LANGUAGE -- refers to any collection of machine interpretable commands.

LATENT CONTENT -- used in CONTENT ANALYSIS: the underlying meaning of communications as distinguished from their MANIFEST CONTENT.

LATIN SQUARE -- used in multi-factor ANOVA; a model which represents a systemic partial combination of levels of different factors when a complete combination would be uneconomical.

LEADING QUESTION -- a question that is worded in such a way that it biases the respondents answer.

LEAST SQUARES METHOD -- the method used in LINEAR REGRESSION to arrive at a LINE OF BEST FIT by minimizing the sum of the squares of the deviations of the observed values from the predicted values.

LEVEL -- the intensity setting of a factor.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE -- in statistics: the degree of likelihood that an observed, empirical relationship could be attributable to sampling error; the probability of making a TYPE-1 error.

LEVELS OF MEASUREMENT -- the four classical levels of measurement: NOMINAL, ORDINAL, INTERVAL, and RATIO, also PARTIALLY ORDERED and ORDERED METRIC; see each heading.

LIKELIHOOD -- the degree of probability associated with an event.

LIKERT SCALE -- a summated scale which asks subjects to respond to a series of items by indicating their agreement or disagreement with opinion statements about those items.

LINEAR -- arranged in a line, row, or simple sequence; a single path.

LINEAR CORRELATION -- a statistical method used to obtain an indicator of the strength of the linear relationship between two variables, independent from their respective scales of measurement.

LINEAR REGRESSION -- a statistical method used for predicting values of one variable based on its relationship to another variable.

LINE OF BEST FIT -- the GOODNESS OF FIT arrived at in LINEAR REGRESSION by plotting the known values of two related variables on a graph and drawing a straight line that falls most nearly on their average values; the line is the basis for predicting estimated values of the variable being studied. See REGRESSION LINE.

LINE PRINTER -- a high speed printing device used to produce hardcopies.

LINE SPEED -- the speed at which data is transmitted over communication channels; in computers, the BAUD RATE.

LINKAGE -- simple proposition which states the relationship between one class and another.

LITERATURE -- See JOURNALS.

LOAD -- to take information from storage and put it into a computer's memory.

LOCAL FILE -- a file available only when the user is logged on.

LOGARITHM -- any number that can be written as a power of ten(10); $10^2 = 100$, so the logarithm of 100 is 2, the logarithm of 1,000 is 3, etc.

LOGIC -- a contrived style of reasoning, commonly used to imply orderly, neat, arrangement or organization of material, ideas, and reasoning processes.

LONGITUDINAL STUDY -- a study designed to measure and examine data collected at different times in order to look for differences or changes which might be a result of the passage of time.

LOWER LIMIT -- the REAL LIMIT of a score value that lies .5 points below the score value.

-- M --

MACHINE LANGUAGE -- a binary language that a computer understands. See BASIC.

MACRO -- a study of large-scale patterns of interrelationships; the HOLISTIC, approach.

MAIL SURVEY -- the mail service is used to send questionnaires to the subjects and to return them to the researcher.

MANIFEST CONTENT -- in CONTENT ANALYSIS, the concrete terms contained in communications.

MANN-WHITNEY U TEST -- a NONPARAMETRIC statistical test of the HYPOTHESIS that two groups of samples come from populations having different distributions; used when data are at the ORDINAL-LEVEL.

MARGINALS -- the totals in a table for its categories.

MASS STORAGE -- refers to any method of storing information outside the computer's core memory; tape, disk, etc.

MATCHING -- pairing experimental and control groups on the basis of certain characteristics in order to determine the effect of experimental treatment, usually when comparing POST-TESTS.

MATRIX QUESTION -- used when responses are required from or about more than one person.

MATURATION -- changes occurring between PRE-TEST and POST-TEST independent of experimental conditions; groups mature, or change naturally.

MATURATION PROBLEM -- a term used to describe the processes that come about simply because of the passage of time between observations.

MEAN -- a single number summarizing a total distribution when scores are measured at the INTERVAL LEVEL; the average of those scores.

MEAN SQUARE -- a statistic used to indicate estimates of variance when doing ANOVA.

MEASUREMENT -- assigning numbers to objects or events, according to some rule.

MEASURES OF CENTRAL TENDENCY -- See MEAN, MEDIAN, and MODE.

MEASURES OF DISPERSION(or VARIABILITY) -- See RANGE, QUARTILE, PERCENTILE, VARIANCE, POPULATION VARIANCE, SAMPLE VARIANCE, STANDARD DEVIATION.

MEDIAN -- the value in a distribution that divides it into two equal parts.

MEDIAN TEST -- a NONPARAMETRIC test of the HYPOTHESIS the two groups come from populations having different medians; used when the data are ORDINAL LEVEL.

MEMORY -- where information is stored, in the mind, in libraries, or in computers.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES -- FIELD NOTES about some methodological aspect of the research.

METHODOLOGY -- the scientific study of research techniques, instruments, and strategies for obtaining useful information; often incorrectly used to describe the methods to be used.

MICRO -- the study of small-scale social systems, or small groups.

MISDIRECTED EXPERIMENT -- an experiment where the researcher lies to the subjects about the purpose of the study.

MISINFORMATION -- information an INFORMANT believes to be true, but which is not.

MODE -- the most frequently occurring value of a variable in a distribution.

MODEL -- a hypothetical concept of how parts or patterns of something are interrelated.

MODEM -- acronym for MODulation/DEMODulation; a device which allows computers to communicate via telephone linkages.

MORTALITY PROBLEM -- the problem of losing members of a sample between observations due to relocation, death, or other reason, especially in longitudinal studies; EXPERIMENTAL MORTALITY.

MULTIPLE STAGE SAMPLE -- when several individual sample are taken before coming to the final sampling stage. See CLUSTER SAMPLING.

MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS -- a simultaneous statistical analysis of several variables.

MURPHY'S LAW -- anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

MYSTICISM -- knowledge which comes from supernatural sources; not to be confused with INTUITION.

-- N --

NATURAL EXPERIMENT -- a social experiment set up by policy makers, but researched by social scientists; the study of naturally occurring change.

NEGATIVE CASES -- observed cases that do not conform to established patterns; they are used to find new or different patterns.

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK -- tells a system that everything is going all right, and no changes are needed; when applied to SOCIAL ACTIONS or MEANINGS, it usually means the opposite.

NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIP -- when a high score on one variable corresponds to a low score on another; also called an INVERSE RELATIONSHIP.

NESTED DESIGN -- a multi-factor model used when two levels of a factor have nested within them different levels of another factor.

NEXIS -- See DATA BASE.

NOISE -- unintended signals that do not carry meaning; interference of any kind which causes poor or mis-communications.

NOMINAL-LEVEL OF MEASUREMENT -- a level of measurement which merely applies names or labels to values assigned to data, makes no assumptions about the ordering of, or distance between, values.

NON-INDEPENDENT MEANS -- when the sets of scores on two variables are related, for example; by PRE- and POST-TESTS.

NONPARAMETRIC TESTS -- statistical methods for testing HYPOTHESES when assumptions about the distribution of populations/samples are unknown or suspect; research has shown them to be almost as capable of detecting differences as PARAMETRIC methods.

NONPROBABILITY SAMPLE -- a sample based on other than PROBABILITY THEORY. See JUDGMENTAL, QUOTA, and SNOWBALL SAMPLES.

NONSAMPLING ERROR -- data that is flawed for some reason other than sampling error, for instance; respondents misreading questions, interviewers improperly recording answers, mis-coding of data, and key punch errors.

NORMAL CURVE -- See BELL SHAPED CURVE.

NULL HYPOTHESIS -- the statement that there is no difference between samples or populations; the researcher tries to reject the NULL so in order to accept the ALTERNATE HYPOTHESIS; symbolized by H^0 .

NUMERIC FIELD -- a field of information comprised solely of numbers.

-- 0 --

OBJECTIVES -- specific, definable outcomes, usually measured and constrained by time and tied to a goal or goals.

OBJECTIVITY -- the researcher's honest efforts to avoid bias and to let the results fall where they may, so to speak; a myth.

OBSERVATIONAL NOTES -- field notes recording observations made by the researcher; raw data without any theoretical interpretation.

OBSERVATION UNIT -- See CASE.

OBSERVATIONS -- some kind of recordable data.

OBSERVATION SCHEDULE -- a device used to systematically record observations.

ONE-TAILED TEST -- a directional HYPOTHESIS test that incorporates a rejection region in only one tail of the probability curve.

ONLINE -- being in direct communication with the computer's CPU.

OPEN-ENDED CATEGORIES -- when a category ending is non-limited, for instance; under 21, more than \$10,000 income, etc.

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS -- questions which have no answer categories, but rather ask respondents to answer in their own words.

OPERATING SYSTEM -- the built-in commands that control a computer's functions.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS -- the concrete and specific definitions criteria of operation by which observations are to be categorized.

OPERATIONALIZATION -- the process of developing operational definitions.

OPERATIONS -- steps involved in performing a task.

ORDERED METRIC-LEVEL -- consists of ordered categories where the relative ordering of the intercategory distances is known even though their absolute magnitude cannot be measured; falls somewhere between the ordinal and interval levels.

ORDER EFFECT -- the idea that the order of a question on a questionnaire can affect the answer to that question.

ORDINAL-LEVEL -- data are rank-ordered according to some criterion; distance is not involved.

OUTCOMES -- measurable indicators of program goals used in determining its worth; the relative quality of GOALS and OBJECTIVES.

OUTPUT -- the results of computer processing, also how results are displayed.

-- P --

PANEL STUDY -- a type of longitudinal study in which data are collected from the same sample group, or panel, at several points in time.

PARAMETER -- a fixed value which refers to various characteristics of a universe; a characteristic of a population.

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION -- a research method where the researcher becomes part of the experimental group.

PARTIAL CORR -- a statistical method which provides a single measure of association describing the linear relationship between two variables while adjusting or controlling for the effects of one or more additional variables.

PATH ANALYSIS -- a form of multivariate analysis in which the causal relationships among variables is presented in graphic format.

PEARSON'S CORR(r) -- a NONPARAMETRIC measure of association for interval-level variables which indicates the strength and direction of relationships.

PERCENTILE -- in a frequency distribution, the term describes the score below which a given percentage of the total number of scores lie.

PERFECT INVERSE RELATIONSHIP -- when knowledge of one variable allows prediction of another variable perfectly as one increases and the other decreases.

PERFECT POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP -- when knowledge of one variable allows prediction of another variable perfectly as one increases and the other also increases.

PERIPHERAL DEVICE -- any piece of hardware connected to, and used, with a computer.

PERMANENT FILE -- any stored file.

PERMUTATIONS -- the number of combinations into which a given number of objects, elements, or items can be ranked, or ordered.

PERSISTENCE -- an analytical feature of patterns indicating the recurrence of a pattern over a period of time.

PHANTOM POPULATION -- an audience for whom the research subjects are acting, but who are not present.

PHENOMENON -- any object or event with characteristics which can be observed and measured.

PHI -- a statistical test based on CHI-SQUARE which is appropriate for two-by-two contingency tables.

PILOT PROGRAM -- a small-scale project used as a test run for a research idea.

PLANS -- goals and objectives supported by explanations of need, and the programs required for achievement.

POISSON PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION -- a model for use with count data when the count represents very small numbers.

POLL -- See SURVEY.

POPULATION -- any class of phenomena arbitrarily defined on the basis of its unique and observable characteristics; all of the members, elements, or objects that comprise a class.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION -- the frequency with which all units or observations in a population would be assigned or expected in each category, or point on a scale.

PORT -- a computer connection to which peripherals are installed.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK -- tells a system that it needs to make changes in order to achieve its goals; when applied to SOCIAL ACTIONS or MEANINGS, it means the opposite.

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP -- when a high score on one variable corresponds to a high score on another variable.

POST-TEST -- a measurement of characteristics taken after giving the experimental treatment.

POWER -- the statistical probability of rejecting a NULL HYPOTHESIS that is actually false.

PRE -- Proportional Reduction in Error, a model for several statistics used in the social sciences.

PREDICTION -- the ability to state what conditions will lead to a certain action; based on PROBABILITY.

PRE-TEST -- a measurement of characteristics taken before giving the experimental treatment.

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, and FINAL SAMPLING UNITS -- indicate various stages in a sampling design.

PRIMARY SOURCE -- original work, or the report of original work.

PROBABILITY -- the likelihood that an event will, or will not, occur.

PROBABILITY PROPORTIONATE TO SIZE (PPS) -- a type of multistage cluster sample in which clusters are selected with probabilities proportionate to their sizes rather than with equal probabilities.

PROBABILITY SAMPLE -- the general term for a sample selected in accordance with probability theory; a random sample.

PROCEDURES -- particular methods or means for supporting or conducting activities.

PROGRAM -- a cluster of activities which are required to achieve objectives and which specify or state the resource requirements.

PROGRAM GOALS -- see GOALS, OBJECTIVES.

PROJECT -- a research experiment.

PROJECT GROUP -- See EXPERIMENTAL GROUP.

PROMPT -- a unique symbol that a computer uses to let you know that you have to do something.

PROPORTIONAL REDUCTION IN ERROR(PRE) -- the model for several statistics used in the social sciences.

PSYCHOGRAPHICS -- refers to the attitudes and images held by those represented by a set of DEMOGRAPHIC information; particularly among media audiences.

PURE RESEARCH -- research designed to gain knowledge for its own sake, rather than to solve problems.

PURPOSIVE SAMPLE -- see JUDGMENTAL SAMPLE.

-- Q --

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS -- nonnumerical examination and interpretation of observations.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS -- numerical representation and interpretation of observations.

QUANTILES -- the values which divide a histogram into quarters.

QUESTIONNAIRE -- a document containing questions and other items designed to gather information for analysis.

QUOTA SAMPLE -- a type of NONPROBABILITY SAMPLE in which subjects are selected proportionally on the basis of predetermined characteristics that are assumed to exist in the population.

-- R --

r^2 -- PEARSON'S r , squared for easier interpreting.

RAM -- Random Access Memory, the computer memory used for short-term storage.

RANDOM -- occurring by chance, or in jumbled order, without logical organization or structure.

RANDOMIZATION -- the technique for assigning subjects to EXPERIMENTAL and CONTROL GROUPS.

RANDOMNESS -- the occurrence of events in an unpredictable manner.

RANDOM SAMPLING -- random selection of sampling units.

RANDOM START -- the starting position on a sampling frame when beginning a systematic sample selection.

RANGE -- a MEASURE OF DISPERSION composed of the highest and lowest values of a variable being studied.

RANK ORDER -- arranging values or measurements in order of the magnitude assigned each one.

RAPPORT -- a relationship of trust and understanding between researcher and subjects.

RATIO-LEVEL -- has all the properties of an INTERVAL-LEVEL scale with the additional property of a zero(0) point defined in the measurement scheme.

RAW SCORE -- the datum obtained for an individual subject.

REACTIVITY -- the influence of the research methods which causes non-normal behavior in the subjects.

REAL -- See CONCRETE.

REAL LIMITS -- the values for each score that lie .5 points above and below the score value.

REDUCTIONISM -- strictly limiting the kinds of concepts to be applied to the phenomenon under study.

REGRESSION -- a statistical method of analysis in which the relationships are presented in the form of an equation called, the REGRESSION equation.

REIFICATION -- regarding things which are not real as if they actually were real; treating a concept in such a way that it is not tested by research but is defined through operationalization.

REINFORCEMENT -- a concept in BEHAVIORISM which says that if a BEHAVIOR is rewarded, it is likely to be repeated.

REJECTION REGION -- See CRITICAL REGION.

RELATIVE DEVIATE -- a standardized method of describing the deviation of a value from its mean relative to the STANDARD DEVIATION of the values in the distribution; the z-SCORE.

RELATIVE FREQUENCY -- a fraction representing the number of measurements in a CLASS FREQUENCY divided by the total number of measurements.

RELIABILITY -- the idea that the measure used will measure items consistently in repeated testing under identical conditions.

REPLICATION -- duplicating an experiment exactly in order to verify the reported results.

REPRESENTATIVENESS -- the idea that a sample has the same characteristics as the population from which it is taken.

REPRODUCIBILITY -- when the response to one item allows for the accurate prediction of a response to another item; REPRODUCIBILITY can be computed using the GUTTMAN SCALE.

RESEARCH DESIGN -- planning a research project based on the research question and the goals of their researcher.

RESEARCH PROBLEM -- a problem stated in such a way that it can be tested by research.

RESPONDENT -- a SUBJECT; the person who answers survey questions.

RESPONSE RATE -- the number of responses divided by the number of subjects included in the SAMPLE; the return rate.

RESPONSE SET -- the tendency of respondents to reply to items in a particular way, regardless of the content of the questions.

RETEST -- repeating observations to determine whether the first observations were accurate and correct.

RETURN GRAPH -- a method used to keep track of the returns of a mail survey.

ROBUST -- a term used in statistics to indicate that a particular test will give acceptably accurate results even when some assumptions are not satisfied.

ROM -- Read Only Memory, computer memory that is used for unchanging information and programs.

ROUGH DRAFT -- any writings before a paper is put into final form; usually subject to drastic, sometimes numerous, revisions.

RUNS TEST -- studies a sequence of events where each element may assume one of two outcomes; a binary test.

-- S --

SAMPLE -- a subset of measurements selected from a population of interest.

SAMPLE EVENT -- See EVENT.

SAMPLE POINT -- a point, arbitrarily assigned to a SAMPLE EVENT in order to facilitate graphic representation.

SAMPLE SPACE -- the set of all SAMPLE POINTS of an experiment.

SAMPLE SIZE -- the number of units chosen to be subjects, not just those who are actual respondents.

SAMPLING -- the systematic selection of individual units from the population to be studied.

SAMPLING DISTRIBUTION -- when all possible outcomes of an event are listed.

SAMPLING ELEMENT -- the objects of study; the units of analysis.

SAMPLING ERROR -- an estimate of how statistics may be expected to deviate from parameters in a random sampling of a given population.

SAMPLING FRAME -- the list of the population from which a sample is selected; a representative sample comes from a sampling frame which includes an entire population.

SAMPLING INTERVAL -- the standard distance between elements selected from a population to assure randomness.

SAMPLING RATIO -- the proportion of a population chosen to be in the sample.

SAMPLING UNITS -- See SAMPLING ELEMENTS.

SCALE -- a method for quantifying subjects' responses; a composite measure using numbers or symbols to designate characteristics to variables.

SCHEFFE TEST -- a statistical method for comparing the differences between three or more variables, especially when the group sizes are unequal.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD -- obtaining knowledge by means of empirical observations and logical reasoning.

SCORING UNITS -- conceptual indicators used to count instances of a concept in a given unit of analysis.

SECONDARY ANALYSIS -- analysis of data that already exists and has been used in other research.

SELF-ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE -- asks respondents to give written answers to prearranged questions.

SEMANTIC ANALYSIS -- content analysis using intensity weights for scaling findings.

SEMANTIC DIFFERENTIAL -- a method for measuring subjects' opinions about attitudes by looking at the words they use to describe that attitude.

SEQUENCES -- concept used in conversational analysis; refers to a chain of utterances in relation to same structure.

SIGN TEST -- a NONPARAMETRIC test used for comparing differences between two populations based on positive and negative signs (VALUES) associated with the differences; a BINOMIAL TEST.

SIMPLE RANDOM SAMPLE -- a type of sample based on assigning numbers to units and then sample units using a random number table.

SKewedNESS -- a FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION which does not fit the BELL SHAPED CURVE, but has a peak which lies to one side and a strung-out tail to the opposite side.

SKIP INTERVAL -- the distance between units being selected in a systematic sample.

SMALLEST-SPACE ANALYSIS -- a type of MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS in which the correlations among variables are represented graphically, in the form of distances between points.

SNOWBALL SAMPLE -- a NONPROBABILITY SAMPLING used in field research, where each respondent is asked to suggest other subjects.

SOCIAL ACTION -- human actions or behavior of interest to the researcher.

SOCIAL DESIRABILITY -- agreeing with statements because they are socially desirable and approved by social norms, rather than replying according to one's actual beliefs; a kind of peer pressure.

SOCIAL MEANINGS -- shared understandings of how certain events, roles, and situations are to be treated by a given group in any context of social interaction.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS -- conditions and circumstances which affect social welfare.

SOCIAL SCIENCE -- the scientific study of social, cultural, and political actions or behaviors.

SOCIAL SCIENCE PROBLEMS -- ideas advanced by social science theories which are investigated by means of social science research.

SOFTWARE -- programs which enable computers to do desired things.

SOLOMON FOUR-GROUP DESIGN -- a classical experimental design with an additional experimental group and an additional control group, neither of which has been pre-tested, in order to determine any pre-test effects.

SOMER'S D -- a test of statistical significance for ORDINAL-LEVEL measures.

SPEARMAN'S RHO(r) -- a NONPARAMETRIC method for testing the relationships between two rank-ordered variables.

SPECIAL CLASSES -- categories or classes which are not part of the larger culture being studied.

SPECIFICATION -- the process used to narrow and define concepts.

SPSS -- STATISTICAL PACKAGE for the SOCIAL SCIENCES; a system of computer programs(SOFTWARE) designed for the analysis of SOCIAL SCIENCE data.

STANDARD DEVIATION -- in statistics, the measure of the dispersion of cases; basic to all statistical analyses.

STANDARD ERROR -- See SAMPLING ERROR.

STANDARD ERROR OF THE MEAN -- an estimate of the STANDARD DEVIATION of a distribution of SAMPLE MEANS, based on only one sample.

STANDARDIZED QUESTIONNAIRE -- all subjects are asked the same questions in the same way..

STANDING PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR -- recurrent, observable activities and actions in a given setting or social situation.

STATISTIC -- a summary number used to describe a sample.

STATISTICS -- an area of science concerned with extracting information from numerical data and using that information to make inferences about the population from which the data was obtained.

STATISTICAL INDEPENDENCE -- when no relationship with another variable exists.

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE -- a general term which usually refers to the unlikelihood that observed relationships could be attributed entirely to sampling error.

STRATEGIES -- the ways used to deal with problems and circumstances; the means used to achieve goals.

STRATIFICATION -- improving the representativeness of a sample by dividing units into homogeneous groups, or strata, before sampling.

STUB -- the lefthand column of a table, usually containing the headings for the dependent variable.

SUBFILE -- a subdivision of a computer data file.

SUMMATED RATINGS SCALE -- measurement of attitudes by summing the number of questions answered, especially where the questions themselves are scaled from high to low.

SURVEY -- a data collection technique using either a questionnaire or interview.

SYMMETRICAL DISTRIBUTION -- the two halves of the distribution curve are identical; in a UNIMODAL SYMMETRICAL DISTRIBUTION, the MEAN, MEDIAN, and MODE all fall on the same point, or value.

SYSTEM -- a collection of things, organized to work together, usually as the result of some stimulus.

SYSTEMATIC SAMPLE -- a probability sample based on a SAMPLING INTERVAL.

-- T --

T-TEST -- a statistical model used for testing the difference between two population means, based on the observed difference between two sample means and their distributions.

TABLE -- a method for describing sets of numerical data. See GRAPHICAL METHOD.

TABLE OF RANDOM NUMBERS -- a table of numbers organized at random; often used in the sampling process.

TALK TURN -- refers to the turn, or place, a given subject has in conversation.

TASK -- that part of an activity requiring a specific skill; typing, interviewing, looking up information in a card catalogue.

TAU b, TAU c -- measures of association between two ordinal-level variables; similar to GAMMA and SOMER'S D.

TELEPHONE SURVEY -- a survey conducted completely by telephone.

TERMINAL -- a device connected to the CPU which allows people to interact with the computer.

TEST GROUP -- the experimental group which receives the experimental treatment.

TESTING -- sampling of attitudes, opinions, or beliefs of scientifically selected group, on any particular set of questions.

TEST OF STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE -- a class of statistical computations which indicate the likelihood that the relationship observed between variables in a sample can be attributed to sampling error only.

TEXT EDITOR -- an interactive program which allows the creation and modification of local files.

THEORETICAL CLASSES -- previously unknown classes which are discovered during experimental observation and analysis.

THEORETICAL NOTES -- field notes about possible theoretical properties or relationships.

THEORY -- a tentative explanation about some circumstances or situation which is based on testable propositions and measurable concepts.

THESIS -- a simple statement of opinion which becomes the basis for a theory, experiment, or proposal.

THURSTONE EQUAL-APPEARING INTERVAL SCALE -- consists of a number of items whose position on the scale has been determined by a ranking operation performed by a group of judges.

TIME SHARING -- a method of organizing a computer's workload so that many researchers can use it concurrently.

TRANSPERSONALITY -- analytic feature of social patterns indicating that behavior is independent of a single cohort.

TRANSSITUATIONALITY -- analytic feature of social patterns indicating that behavior is independent of a single situation.

TREND STUDY -- examining trends in attitudes or characteristics by comparing population data collected over time; similar to COHORT STUDIES.

TRIVARIATE ANALYSIS -- analysis of three variables in a single table.

TRIVARIATE TABLE -- a table composed of three variables; two-by-two-by-two.

TWO-BY-TWO TABLE -- a single, four-celled, table used to examine two dichotomous variables; a four-fold table.

TWO-TAILED TEST -- a nondirectional test that incorporates both tails of the probability curve used for a given statistic.

TYPE I ERROR -- in statistics, rejecting the NULL HYPOTHESIS when it is true.

TYPE II ERROR -- in statistics, accepting the NULL HYPOTHESIS when it is false.

TYPICALITY -- analytic feature of social patterns indicating that behaviors occur in ways which suggest patterns.

TYPOLOGY -- classification of observations in terms of their attributes on two or more variables.

-- U --

UNIDIMENSIONAL -- only one concept is measured.

UNIMODAL -- a FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION with only one mode.

UNIT OF ANALYSIS -- the individual subject, or group of subjects, being analyzed; the focus of the study.

UNIVARIATE ANALYSIS -- the examination of a single variable in a univariate distribution.

UNREPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE -- a sample that does not reflect the characteristics of the population being studied.

-- V --

VALIDITY -- the correspondence between what a measuring device is supposed to measure and what it actually measures; the accuracy with which the measure reflects the concept being measured.

VARIABLE -- something of experimental interest which can have more than one value; a quantity that has the capability of assuming more than one value.

VARIABILITY -- the spread, or dispersion, of raw scores.

VARIANCE -- a measure of the dispersion of values around the mean; the average, or mean, of the squared deviation scores about the mean of a distribution.

VENN DIAGRAM -- a graphic representation of the SAMPLE POINTS associated with SIMPLE EVENTS, in PROBABILITY THEORY.

VERSTCHEN -- research that gathers information about the meanings of social behavior in addition to the patterns themselves.

-- W --

WEIGHTING -- assigning weights to units of unequal probabilities in order to construct a representative sample of the experimental population.

WILCOXON TEST -- a rank-based test of differences in location between two dependent samples.

WILK'S LAMBDA -- used in DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS, it is an inverse measure of the discriminating power of the original variables which has not yet been removed by the discriminant function.

WORD COUNTING -- content analysis that counts certain conceptually key words in texts.

WORKING FILE -- same as a local file.

-- X --

X -- this symbol usually indicates an individual score; a raw score.

X^2 -- the symbol for CHI SQUARE.

$\bar{X}$ -- this symbol indicates the SAMPLE MEAN SCORE.

-- Y --

Y-INTERCEPT -- used in REGRESSION ANALYSIS, it refers to the point on the Y-axis of a graph which is crossed by the line representing the functional relation between value x and value y.

YATES CORRECTION -- used in CHI-SQUARE computations, it is called a correction for continuity.

-- Z --

Z-SCORE -- a standard score obtained by converting raw scores into new scores, using a MEAN of 0, and a STANDARD DEVIATION of 1.